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**flugel-horn** or **flü-gel-horn** or **flue-gel-horn** (flöö'gel hörn'), *n.* a brass wind instrument with three valves, usu. pitched in B flat and used esp. in military bands. [1850-55; < G, = *Flügel* wing + *Horn* horn] —**flu-gel-horn-ist**, *n.*

**fluid** (flöö'id), *n.* 1. a substance, as a liquid or gas, that is capable of flowing and that changes its shape at a steady rate when acted upon by a force. —*adj.* 2. pertaining to a substance that easily changes its shape; capable of flowing. 3. consisting of or pertaining to fluids. 4. changing easily or readily; not fixed, stable, or rigid: *Our plans are fluid.* 5. smooth and flowing: *fluid movements.* 6. convertible into cash; *fluid assets.* [1595-1605; < L *fluidus* flowing freely = *flu(ere)* to flow + *-idus* -id-] —**fluid-al**, *adj.* —**fluid-ly**, *fluid-al-ly*, *adv.* —**fluid-ness**, *n.* —*Syn.* See *liquid*.



flugelhorn

**fluid coupling**, *n.* an apparatus in which a fluid, usu. oil, transmits torque from one shaft to another, producing an equal torque in the other shaft. [1935-40]

**fluid dram** (or **drachm**), *n.* the eighth part of a fluid ounce. *Abbr.:* fl dr; *Symbol:* f

**fluid drive**, *n.* any automotive drive system in which a fluid coupling transmits power from the engine to the drive shaft. [1940-45]

**fluid-extract** (flöö'id ek'strakt), *n.* a liquid preparation of a drug with alcohol as a solvent or preservative, containing in each cubic centimeter the medicinal activity of one gram of the powdered drug. [1850-55]

**fluid-ics** (flöö'id'iks), *n.* (used with a sing. v.) the technology dealing with the use of a flowing liquid or gas in various devices, esp. controls, to perform functions usu. performed by an electric current in electronic devices. Also called **fluorics**. [1960-65] —**fluid-ic**, *adj.*

**fluid-ity** (flöö'id'i-tē), *n.* 1. the quality or state of being fluid. 2. the ability of a substance to flow. [1595-1605]

**fluid-ize** (flöö'id'iz), *v.t., -ized, -izing.* 1. to make fluid. 2. to suspend or transport (finely divided particles) in a stream of gas or air. [1850-55] —**fluid-iza-tion**, *n.* —**fluid-iz'er**, *n.*

**fluid mechanics**, *n.* an applied science dealing with the basic principles of gaseous and liquid matter. [1940-45]

**fluid ounce**, *n.* a measure of capacity equal to 1/16 pint or 1.8047 cubic inches (29.573 milliliters) in the U.S., and equal to 1/8 of an imperial pint or 1.7339 cubic inches (28.413 milliliters) in Great Britain. *Abbr.:* fl. oz.; *Symbol:* f [1880-85]

**flake** (flösk), *n.* 1. the part of an anchor that catches in the ground, esp. the flat triangular piece at the end of each arm. See *diag.* at *ANCHOR*. 2. the barbed head of a harpoon, spear, arrow, etc. 3. either half of the triangular tail of a whale. [1555-65; perh. identical with *FLAKE*]

**flake** (flösk), *n.* 1. a stroke of good luck: *I got the job by a fluke.* 2. a chance happening; accident. 3. an accidentally successful stroke, as in billiards. [1855-60; of obscure orig.; cf. dial. *fluke* a guess]

**flake** (flösk), *n.* 1. any of several American flounders of the genus *Paralichthys*, esp. *P. dentatus*, of the Atlantic Ocean. 2. *Trematode*. [bef. 900; ME *flake*, OE *flōc*; c. ON *flōki*; akin to MD, MLG *flac*, OHG *flah* flah]

**fluky** or **fluk-ey** (flöö'kē), *adj.* **fluk-i-er**, **fluk-iest**. 1. obtained or happening by chance rather than skill. 2. uncertain, as a wind; changeable. [1865-70] —**fluk-i-ness**, *n.*

**flum-a-did-dle** (flum'ə did'l, flum'ə did'l), *n.* 1. utter nonsense. 2. worthless frills. [1840-50, Amer.; appar. FLUM(MERY) + -a- unstressed linking vowel + DIDDLE]

**flume** (flööm), *n.* 1. a deep narrow defile containing a mountain stream or torrent. 2. an artificial channel or trough for conducting water, as one used to transport logs or provide water power. 3. an amusement park ride in which passengers are conveyed through a water-filled chute or over a water slide. [1125-75; ME *flum* < OF < L *flumen* stream]

**flummery** (flum'ə rē), *n., pl. -meries*. 1. any of various sweet puddings or custards, as a blancmange or fruit custard. 2. a gruel of oatmeal or flour boiled with water. 3. complete nonsense; foolish humbug. [1615-25; < Welsh *flumru*, with ending assimilated to -ERY]

**flum-mox** (flum'əks), *v.t., -moxed, -mox-ing*. *Informal.* to bewilder; confound; confuse. [1830-40; orig. uncert.]

**flump** (flump), *v., flumped, flump-ing.* —*v.i., v.t.* 1. to plump down suddenly or heavily; flop. —*n.* 2. the act or sound of flumping. [1810-20; b. FLOP and PLUMP]

**flung** (flung), *v. pt. and pp. of FLING.*

**flunk** (flungk), *v., flunked, flunk-ing.* —*v.i.* 1. to fail in a course or examination. —*v.t.* 2. to get a failing mark in: *to flunk math.* 3. to give a failing grade to. 4. **flunk out**, to dismiss or be dismissed from a school because of failing grades: *to flunk out of college.* —*n.* 5. a failure, as in a course or examination. [1815-25, Amer.; perh. akin to FLINCH, FUNK]

**flunk-out** (flungk'out), *n.* a person who has flunked out of school. [1965-70]

**flunk-ky** or **flun-key** (flungk'kē), *n., pl. -kies or -keys*. 1. a male servant in livery. 2. an assistant who does menial work. 3. a servile follower; toady; yes-man. [1775-85; perh. alter. of FLANKER] —**flunk-ky-ism**, *n.*

**flu-or** (flöö'ör, -ör), *n.* FLUORITE. [1655-65; < NL (1546), as trans. of G *fluide*, L: discharge, flow = *flu(ere)* to flow + -or -or; so called from its use as a flux]

**fluo-resce** (flöö res'ē, flö-, flö-), *v.i., -resced, -rescing.* to exhibit fluorescence. [1870-75] —**fluo-resce-er**, *n.*

**fluo-resce-in** (flöö res'ē in, flö-, flö-), *n.* a red crystalline compound,  $C_{12}H_{10}O_2$ , that in alkaline solutions produces an intense green fluorescence: used as a tracer and in dyes. [1875-80]

**fluo-rescence** (flöö res'ēns, flö-, flö-), *n.* 1. the emission of radiation, esp. of visible light, by a substance during exposure to external radiation, as light or x-rays. 2. the property possessed by such a substance. 3. the radiation so produced. [1852; FLUOR(SPAR) + -ESCE, on the model of OPALSCENCE]

**fluorescence-activated cell sort'er**, *n.* See *FACS*.

**fluo-res-cent** (flöö res'ent, flö-, flö-), *adj.* 1. possessing the property of fluorescence; exhibiting fluorescence. 2. strikingly bright, vivid, or glowing. —*n.* 3. a lighting fixture that utilizes a fluorescent lamp. [1853]

**fluorescent lamp**, *n.* a tubular electric discharge lamp in which light is produced by the fluorescence of phosphors coating the inside of the tube. [1895-1900]

**fluor-i-date** (flöö'r'i dät', flör', flör'), *v.t., -dat-ed, -dat-ing.* to introduce a fluoride into: *to fluoridate drinking water.* [1945-50]

**fluor-i-da-tion** (flöö'r'i dät'shan, flör', flör'), *n.* the addition of fluorides to the public water supply to reduce the incidence of tooth decay. [1900-05]

**fluor-ide** (flöö'r'id, flör', flör'), *n.* 1. a salt of hydrofluoric acid consisting of two elements, one of which is fluorine, as sodium fluoride, NaF. 2. a compound containing fluorine, as methyl fluoride,  $CH_3F$ . [1820-30]

**fluor-i-dize** (flöö'r'i diz', flör', flör'), *v.t., -dized, -diz-ing.* to treat, impregnate, or affect with a fluoride. [1935-40] —**fluor-i-da-za-tion**, *n.*

**fluor-im-e-ter** (flöö rim'i tēr, flö-, flö-), *n.* FLUOROMETER.

**fluor-i-nate** (flöö'r'ə näv', flör', flör'), *v.t., -nat-ed, -nat-ing.* to treat or combine with fluorine. [1930-35] —**fluor-i-na-tion**, *n.*

**fluor-ine** (flöö'r'en, -in, flör', flör'), *n.* the most reactive nonmetallic element, a pale yellow, corrosive, toxic gas that occurs combined, esp. in fluorite. *Symbol:* F; *at. wt.:* 18.9984; *at. no.:* 9. [1813; < F; see *FLUOR*, -INE]

**fluor-ite** (flöö'r'it, flör', flör'), *n.* a mineral, calcium fluoride,  $CaF_2$ , occurring in crystals and in masses: the chief source of fluorine. Also called **fluor**, **fluorspar**. [1865-70; < It; see *FLUOR*, -ITE]

**fluoro-**, 1. a combining form meaning "fluorine" or "fluoride": *fluorocarbon*. 2. a combining form meaning "fluorescence": *fluoroscope*. [< NL; see *FLUOR*, -O-]

**fluoro-car-bon** (flöö'r'ə kär'bən, flör', flör'), *n.* any of a class of compounds produced by substituting fluorine for hydrogen in a hydrocarbon and characterized by great chemical stability: used chiefly as a lubricant, refrigerant, fire-extinguishing agent, and insulator; banned as an aerosol propellant in the U.S. because of its apparent role in ozone layer depletion. [1935-40]

**fluoro-chrome** (flöö'r'ə kröm', flör', flör'), *n.* any of a group of fluorescent dyes used to label biological material. [1940-45]

**fluoro-ro-graphy** (flöö rog'rə fē, flö-, flö-), *n.* PHOTOFLUOROGRAPHY. [1940-45]

**fluorom-e-ter** (flöö rom'i tēr, flö-, flö-), *n.* an instrument for measuring fluorescence, often as a means of determining the nature of the substance emitting the fluorescence. [1895-1900] —**fluor-o-met-ric** (flöö'r'ə mē'trik, flör', flör'), *adj.* —**fluor-o-m-e-try**, *n.*

**fluor-o-scope** (flöö'r'ə sköp', flör', flör'), *n., v., -scoped, -scop-ing.* —*n.* 1. a tube or box fitted with a screen coated with a fluorescent substance, used for viewing objects, esp. deep body structures, by means of x-ray or other radiation. —*v.t.* 2. to examine by means of a fluoroscope. [1895-1900, Amer.] —**fluor-o-scop-ic** (-skop'ik), *adj.* —**fluor-o-scop-i-cally**, *adv.* —**fluor-os-co-py** (flöö ros'kə pē, flö-, flö-), *n.*

**fluor-o-sis** (flöö rō'sis, flö-, flö-), *n.* 1. an abnormal condition caused by excessive intake of fluorides, characterized in children by discoloration and pitting of the teeth and in adults by pathological bone changes. 2. Also called **mottled enamel**, the changes in tooth enamel symptomatic of fluorosis. [1925-30]

**fluor-o-ur-a-cil** (flöö'r'ə yōr'ə sil, flör', flör'), *n.* a pyrimidine analog,  $C_4H_4FN_2O_2$ , used in the treatment of certain cancers. [1955-60]

**fluor-spär** (flöö'ör spär', -är), *n.* FLUORITE. [1785-95; FLUOR + SPÄR]

**flur-y** (flür'ē, flür'ē), *n., pl. -ries, v., -ried, -ry-ing.* —*n.* 1. a light, brief shower of snow. 2. sudden commotion; excitement; confusion; or nervous hurry: *a flurry of activity before the party.* 3. a brief rise or fall in prices or a brief period of heavy trading on the stock exchange. 4. a sudden gust of wind. —*v.t.* 5. to make confused or agitated; fluster. —*v.i.* 6. (of snow) to fall or be blown in a flurry. 7. to move in an excited or agitated manner. [1680-90; b. FLUTTER and HURRY]

**flush**<sup>1</sup> (flush), *n., v., flushed, flush-ing.* —*n.* 1. a blush; rosy glow. 2. a rushing or overspreading flow, as of water. 3. a sudden rise of emotion or excitement: *a flush of anger.* 4. glowing freshness or vigor: *the flush of youth.* 5. a reddening of the skin, as from a fever, or a sensation of heat accompanying this. 6. HOT FLASH. 7. an act of cleansing by flushing, or a preparation used for this. —*v.t.* 8. to redden; cause to blush or glow. 9. to flood or spray thoroughly with water, as for cleansing purposes. 10. to flood or wash out (a toilet, sewer, etc.) by a sudden rush of water. 11. to animate or excite; inflame: *flushed with success.* —*v.i.* 12. to blush; redden. 13. to flow with a rush; flow and spread suddenly. 14. to be washed with a sudden rush of water. [1540-50; perh. extended senses of FLUSH<sup>2</sup>; cf. similar phonesthetic elements and meanings of BLUSH, GUSH, FLASH] —**flush-a-ble**, *adj.* —**flush'er**, *n.*

**flush<sup>2</sup>** (flush), *adj., adv., v., flushed, flush-ing.* —*adj.* 1. even or level with a surface; forming the same plane: *The window frame is flush with the wall.* 2. having direct contact; immediately adjacent: *The table was flush against the wall.* 3. well-supplied, esp. with money; affluent; prosperous. 4. abundant or plentiful, as money. 5. having a ruddy or reddish color. 6. full of vigor; lusty. 7. full to overflowing. 8. even or level with the right margin (*flush/ right*) or the left margin (*flush/ left*) of a type page; without an indentation. —*adv.* 9. on the same level or plane; evenly: *The door shuts flush with the wall.* 10. in direct contact; squarely: *set flush against the edge.* —*v.t.* 11. to make flush or even. —*v.i.* 12. to send out shoots, as plants in spring. —*n.* 13. a fresh growth, as of shoots and leaves. [1540-50; perh. all sense developments from FLUSH<sup>1</sup>] —**flush-ness**, *n.*

**flush<sup>3</sup>** (flush), *v., flushed, flush-ing.* —*v.t.* 1. to rouse and cause to start up or fly off: *to flush a woodcock.* —*v.t.* 2. to fly out or start up suddenly. —*n.* 3. a flushed bird or flock of birds. [1250-1300; ME *flusshen*, first attested as *pip. fluste, fliste*; of uncert. orig.]

**flush<sup>4</sup>** (flush), *adj.* 1. consisting entirely of cards of one suit: *a flush*

**PRONUNCIATION KEY:** act, cāpe, dāre, pāt; set, ēven; if, īce; ox, nō, fōr, oil, bōok, bōot, out; up, ūrge; child; sing; shoe; thin, thāt; zh in treasure. ə = a in alone, e in item, i in easily, o in gallop, u in circus; ɹ in fire (fīr), hour (ou'r).

**par-oti-tis** (par'ə tī'tis) also **par-oti-di-tis** (pə rō'tī dī'tis), *n.* 1. inflammation of a parotid. 2. MUMPS. [1815-25]  
**parous**, a combining form meaning "bearing": *oviparous*; *viviparous*. [*< L. parus* bearing, der. of *parere* to bear, bring forth; see *par-*]  
**par-ou-si-a** (pə rō'sē ə, -sē ə, pər'sē sē ə), *n.* SECOND COMING. [1870-75; *< Gk. parousia* a being present, presence = *par-* + *ous-* (s. of *ōn*, prp. of *ēnai* to be) + *-ia* -*ia*]  
**par-ox-ysm** (pər'ɒks əz'm), *n.* 1. any sudden, violent outburst, as of action or emotion: *paroxysms of rage*. 2. a severe attack or a sudden increase in intensity of a disease, usu. recurring periodically. [1570-80; earlier *paroxysmos* *< Gk. paroxysmōs* irritation, der. of *paroxein* to irritate. See *PAR-*, *oxy-*, *-ism*] — **par-ox-ys-mal**, **par-ox-ys-mic**, *adj.*  
**par-ox-ys-mal-ly**, *adv.*  
**par-ox-y-tone** (pə rōk'sī tōn'), *adj.* 1. (of a word in Classical Greek) having an acute accent on the next to the last syllable. — *n.* 2. a paroxysmic word. [1755-65; *< NL. paroxytonus* *< Gk. paroxytōnos*. See *PAR-*, *oxy-*] — **par-ox-y-ton-ic** (pər'ɒks i tōn'ik, pə rōk'-), *adj.*  
**par-quet** (pär kät'), *n.* 1. a wooden floor composed of short strips or blocks of wood forming a pattern, sometimes with inlays of other woods or other materials. 2. the front part of the main floor of a theater, opera house, etc., between the musicians' area and the parterre or, esp. in the U.S., the entire main-floor space for spectators. — *v.* 3. to construct (a floor) of parquet. [1670-80; *< F. dim. of parq parq*; see *-ET*]  
**par-quet cir-cle**, *n.* **PARTERRE** (def. 1). [1850-55, Amer.]  
**par-quest-ry** (pär kät' trē), *n.* mosaic work of wood used for floors, wainscoting, etc.; marquetry. [1835-45; *< F. parquerie*. See *PARQUET*, *-ERY*]  
**parr** (pär), *n.* **pl. parrs**, (*esp. collectively*) **parr**, 1. a young salmon. 2. the young of certain other fishes, as the codfish. [1705-15; orig. uncert.]  
**Parr** (pär), *n.* Catherine, CATHERINE PARR.  
**par-ra-keet** (pär'ə kēt'), *n.* **PARAKEET**.  
**par-ra-mat-ta** (pär'ə māt'ə), *n.* **PARAMATTA**.  
**par-rel or par-rail** (pär'əl), *n.* a sliding ring of rope, wood, or metal that confines a yard or the jaws of a gaff to the mast but allows vertical movement. [1425-75; late ME *perrell*, var. of ME *parail*, aph. var. of *parail* APPAREL]  
**par-ri-cide** (pär'ə sīd'), *n.* 1. the killing of one's father, mother, or other close relative. 2. a person who commits such an act. [1545-55; *< L. parricidium* act of kin-murder, *parricida* kin-killer = *pār-* (akin to *Gk. patros*, Attic *pēōs* kinsman) + *-cidium*, *-cida* -*cide*] — **par-ri-cid-al**, *adj.*  
**par-ri-ng-ton** (pär'ing tən), *n.* **Vernon Louis**, 1871-1929, U.S. literary historian and critic.  
**par-rish** (pär'ish), *n.* (Frederick) **Maxfield**, 1870-1966, U.S. painter.  
**par-ris Is-land** (pär'is), *n.* a U.S. Marine Corps training station in SE South Carolina, S of Fort Royal Island.  
**par-rot** (pär'ət), *n.* **pl. -ries**, **-rot-ing**, *n.* 1. any of numerous gregarious, noisy, often brilliantly colored birds of the order Psittaciformes, principally of the tropics and warmer regions of the Southern Hemisphere: some species have the ability to mimic speech when in captivity. 2. a person who, without thought or understanding, repeats the words of another. — *v.* 3. to repeat without thought or understanding. [1515-25; appar. *< MF. Pterot*, dim. of *Pierre* (see *PARAKEET*), though a comparable sense of the *F* word is not known until the 18th cent.]  
**par-rot-er** (pär'ət'ər), *n.* **PSITTACOSIS**. [1950-55]  
**par-rot-fish** (pär'ət fīsh'), *n.* **pl. (esp. collectively) -fish**, (*esp. for kinds or species*) **-fish-es**, any tropical marine fish of the family Scaridae, having brilliant coloring and parrotlike jaws. [1705-15]  
**par-ry** (pär'ē), *v.* **-ried**, **-rying**, *n.* **pl. -ries**. — *v.* 1. to ward off (a sword thrust, blow, weapon, etc.). 2. to turn aside; dodge: *to parry an embarrassing question*. — *i.* 3. to parry a thrust, blow, etc. — *n.* 4. an act or instance of parrying. [1665-75; *< F. parer*, impv. of *parer* to ward off, set off *< L. parare* to set. See *PARADE*] — **par-ri-er**, *n.*  
**Par-ry** (pär'ē), *n.* **William Edward**, 1790-1855, English arctic explorer.  
**par-se** (pär'sē), *v.* **parsed**, **par-sing**. — *v.* 1. to analyze (a sentence) in terms of grammatical constituents, identifying the parts of speech, syntactic relations, etc. 2. to describe (a word in a sentence) grammatically. Identifying the part of speech, inflectional form, syntactic function, etc. — *v.* 3. to admit of being parsed. [1545-55; *< L. pars* part, as in *pars orationis* part of speech] — **par-sa-ble**, *adj.* — **par-sar**, *n.*  
**par-sec** (pär'sek'), *n.* a unit of distance equal to 208,265 times the distance from the earth to the sun, or 3.26 light years. [1910-15; *PARALLAX* + *SECOND*]  
**Par-see or Par-si** (pär'sē, pär sē'), *n.* **pl. -sees or -sis**, an Indian Zoroastrian whose ancestors fled Muslim persecution in Persia in the 7th and 8th centuries. [1605-15; *< Pers. Pārsi* Persian = *Pārs* PERSIA + *-i* suffix of appurtenance] — **Par-see-ism**, *n.*  
**Par-si-fal** (pär'sē fəl, -fāl'), *n.* **PERCIVAL**.  
**par-si-mo-ni-ous** (pär'sē mō'nē əs), *adj.* given to parsimony; frugal or stingy. [1590-1600] — **par-si-mo-ni-ous-ly**, *adv.* — **par-si-mo-ni-ous-ness**, *n.* — *Syn.* See *STINGY*.  
**Par-si-mo-n-y** (pär'sē mō'nē), *n.* extreme or excessive economy or frugality; stinginess. [1400-50; late ME *parcimony* *< L. parsimonia*, *parcimonia* frugality, thrift = *parsi-* (comb. form of *parsus*, ptp. of *parcere* to economize) or *parci-* (comb. form of *parcus* sparing) + *-mōnia* -*mony*]  
**Par-sip-pa-ny-Troy/Hills'** (pär sip'ə nē), *n.* a town in N New Jersey. 50,000.  
**par-sley** (pär'slē), *n.* 1. an herb, *Petroselinum crispum*, native to the Mediterranean, having either curled leaf clusters (French parsley) or flat compound leaves (Italian parsley). — *adj.* 2. Also, **pars/led**, **pars/leyed**, cooked or garnished with parsley: *parsley potatoes*. [1350-1400; ME *pārsel*, *b. OE. petersilie* and *OF. persil*; both *< VL. \*petroselinum*, alter. of *\*petroselinum* *< Gk. petroselinon* rock-parsley. See *PETRO-*, *CELERY*]  
**par-sley fam-ily**, *n.* a family, Umbelliferae, of herbaceous plants with compound leaves, hollow stems, flat-topped umbels borne in numerous small flowers, and seedlike fruit; includes anise, caraway, carrot, celery, dill, parsley, parsnip, Queen Anne's lace, and water hemlock.  
**par-snip** (pär'snīp), *n.* 1. a plant, *Pastinaca sativa*, of the parsley family, cultivated varieties of which have a large white edible root. 2. the root of this plant. [1350-1400; earlier *pars(e)nep*, *pass(e)nep*, ME *pas(t)nep(e)*

## parotitis to partial pressure

*< L. past(ināca) parsnip* (der. of *pastinūm* forked dibble) + ME *nep* turnip; see *TURNIP*]  
**par-son** (pär'sən), *n.* a member of the clergy, esp. a Protestant minister; pastor; rector. [1200-50; ME *persone* *< ML. persona* parish priest, *L. persona*. See *PERSON*] — **par-son-ish**, **par-son-like**, *adj.*  
**par-son-age** (pär'sə nīj), *n.* the residence provided by a parish for its pastor. [1250-1300; ME *personage* *< AF*; cf. *ML. personaticum* benefice. See *PARSON*, *-AGE*]  
**Par-sons ta-ble**, *n.* a square or rectangular table with straight, square legs extending from the corners flush with the top so as to appear jointless. [1965-70; after the Parsons School of Design, New York City]  
**part** (pärt), *n.* **pl. parts**, *part-ed*, *part-ing*, *adj.*, *adv.* — *n.* 1. a portion or division of a whole that is separate or distinct; piece, fraction, or section; constituent: *the rear part of the house*. 2. an essential or integral quality. 3. a section or division of a literary work. 4. a portion, member, or organ of an animal body. 5. any of a number of quantities that compose a whole: *two parts sugar to one part cocoa*. 6. an allotted portion; share. 7. *usu.*, **parts**, a region, quarter, or district: *a journey to foreign parts*. 8. an attribute establishing the possessor as a person of superior worth. 9. either of the opposing sides in a contest, contractual agreement, etc. 10. the dividing line formed in separating the hair of the head when combing it. 11. a constituent piece of a machine or tool, esp. a replacement for the original piece. 12. a. the written or printed matter extracted from the score that a single performer or section uses in the performance of concerted music: *a horn part*. b. a section or division of a composition. 13. participation or concern in something: role. 14. a person's contribution to some effort or action: duty. 15. a role acted in a play or sustained in real life. — *v.* 1. to divide (a thing) into parts. 16. to comb (the hair) away from a dividing line. 17. to divide into shares; apportion. 18. to put or keep apart; separate: *to part the calves from the herd*. 19. *Obs.* to leave. — *v.* 2. to divide (a thing) into parts. 16. to break or cleave. 21. to go apart from or leave one another, as persons. 22. to break or become torn apart, as a cable. 23. to depart. 24. to die. 25. part with, to relinquish. — *adj.* 26. partial; of a part: *part owner*. — *adv.* 27. in part; partly: *part wool*. — *Idiom.* 28. **for one's part**, as far as concerns one: *For my part, you can do whatever you please*. 29. **in good part**, to a great extent; largely. 30. **in part**, in some measure or degree. 31. **on the part of**, a. on behalf of; concerning. b. as done or manifested by: *too much noise on the part of the class*. 32. **part and parcel**, an essential, integral part. 33. **take part**, to participate; share (def. 1000; *n.*) ME (*< OF < L.*) OE *< L. pars* piece, portion; (*v.*) ME *< OF partir < L. partire*, der. of *pars*]  
**part**, 1. participial. 2. participle. 3. particular.  
**part-ake** (pär'tāk'), *v.* **-took**, **-tak-en**, **-tak-ing**. — *v.* 1. to take part in along with others (usu. fol. by *in*): *to partake in a celebration*. 2. to receive, take, or have a portion (usu. fol. by *of*): *to partake of a meal*. 3. to have the nature or character (usu. fol. by *of*): *feelings partaking of both joy and regret*. — *v.* 4. to take or have a part in; share. [1555-65; back formation from *partaking*, ME *part taking*, trans. of *L. participatio* PARTICIPATION] — **part-ak-er**, *n.*  
**part-ed** (pär'tīd), *adj.* 1. divided into parts; cleft. 2. divided by a part: *parted hair*. 3. set or kept apart; separated. 4. *Bot.* separated into rather distinct portions by incisions that extend nearly to the midrib or the base. 5. *Archaic*. dead; deceased. [1350-1400] — **part-ed-ness**, *n.*  
**par-ter-re** (pär'tär'), *n.* 1. Also called **parquet circle**, the rear section of seats on the main floor of a theater, opera house, etc., under the balcony. 2. an arrangement of ornamental flower beds separated by walks. [1630-40; *< F.* use of phrase *par terre* on the ground. See *PER*, *TERRA*] — **par-ter-red**, *adj.*  
**par-theno-**, a combining form meaning "without fertilization": *parthenogenesis*. [*< Gk. comb. form repr. parthénos* maiden]  
**par-the-no-car-py** (pär'thē nō kār'pē), *n.* the production of fruit without fertilization. [1910-15; *PARTHENO-* + *-carpy*; see *-CARP*, *-Y*] — **par-the-no-car-pic**, *adj.*  
**par-the-no-gen-e-sis** (pär'thē nō jē'nē sis), *n.* development of an egg without fertilization. [1840-50] — **par-the-no-gen-et-ic** (jē'nē tē'ik), *adj.* — **par-the-no-gen-et-i-cal-ly**, *adv.*  
**Par-the-non** (pär'thē non', -nan), *n.* a Doric temple of Athena on the Acropolis in Athens, completed c.438 B.C.  
**Par-thi-a** (pär'thē ə), *n.* an ancient country in W Asia, SE of the Caspian Sea, in what is now NE Iran.  
**Par-thi-an** (pär'thē ən), *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Parthia. 2. the Iranian language of the Parthians. — *adj.* 3. of or pertaining to Parthia, its inhabitants, or their language. [1520-30]  
**Par-thian shot**, *n.* a sharp, telling remark or gesture made in departing. [1900-05; so called from the Parthian cavalry's habit of shooting arrows at the enemy while in real or feigned flight]  
**par-tial** (pär'shəl), *adj.* 1. being such in part only; incomplete: *partial payment*. 2. biased or prejudiced in favor of one person, group, side, etc., over another: *The judge was partial*. 3. pertaining to or affecting a part. 4. being a part; component; constituent. — *n.* 5. **PARTIAL TONE**. — *Idiom.* 6. **partial to**, favoring; especially fond of. [1375-1425; late ME *parcial* biased, particular *< MF < LL. partialis* pertaining to a part = *L. parti-* (s. of *pars*) *PART* + *-ialis* -*al*] — **par-tial-ly**, *adv.*  
**partial deriv-ative**, *n.* *Math.* the derivative of a function with respect to one of its variables with all other variables held constant. [1970-75]  
**partial differ-ent-ial**, *n.* *Math.* an expression obtained from a given function of several variables by taking the partial derivative with respect to one of the variables and multiplying by the increment in that variable. [1810-20]  
**partial frac-tion**, *n.* one of the fractions into which a given fraction can be resolved. [1810-20]  
**par-ti-al-ity** (pär'shē əl'ē tē, pär shal'-), *n.* **pl. -ties**. 1. a favorable bias. 2. a special fondness or liking. [1375-1425; late ME *< ML*]  
**par-tial pres-sure**, *n.* the pressure that a gas in a mixture of gases

Pronunciation key: act, cāpe, dāre, pärt; set, even; if, ice; ox, nō, fōr, oil, bōck, bōst, out; up, ūrge; child; sing; shoe; thin; that; zh in treasure. ə = a in alone, e in item, i in easily, o in gallop, u in circus; \* in fire (fīr), hour (ou'ər).